

PAM.
CHINA

Free Methodist
43

Greetings from China to Home Friends



Trophies from Chengchow

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"

Free Methodist Mission

1917

To the dear home church whose prayers, sympathy, and generosity with the blessing of God, have made the work in China these twelve years a possibility, greeting :—

“As his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarricth by the stuff.” I Sam. 30, 24.

The Free Methodist Mission in China is located south of the Yellow River in the northern part of Honan Province and the field is worked from three centers. Jung-tseh Hsien at the west, near the great railway line from Peking to Hankow, was opened in 1906. Fifty miles east, the station at Kaifengfu, capital of the province, was opened in 1907. The year following the third station was added, Ki Hsien, about thirty-three miles southeast of the capital. A total of about 165 members has been baptized at the three stations.

Jungtseh Hsien.

JUNGTSEH HSIEN, although the smallest of the three main stations in China, is entirely left to the Free Methodist Church. There is no other denomination in this section.

Ten years ago God opened the way to this city which is now the center of a living, pulsating church. The seed-sowing has been in tears abundant. The Lord was pleased to smile upon it and now there is a harvest to His Glory. The harvest is so great and the laborers so few that they are oft times very weary. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP ?

There are three country appointments to this city work. From these appointments work is carried on to wider circles. Each of these out-stations has been opened up after two or three years of street preaching and living in Chinese inns from time to time, holding meetings as best possible. The out-station to the west, Hoinhsien, is rich in fruit. They are mostly farmers and are able to give of their time to help in the spread of the Gospel. During the winter months there were several bands out, of two and three men each, selling



Top row, left to right: Miss Edwards, G. H. Scofield, I. S. W. Ryding.

Second row: Dorcas, Mrs. and Paul Scofield, Miss Meyers.

tracts and Gospel portions. Having first bought the books of us, they were responsible for the sale of them. These men are not paid for the time thus spent. The people at this out-station are very responsive, rejoicing when a Divine truth is presented to them. After the services they sit around and go over the points of the sermon and add delightfully to the messages given. They believe in applied truth.

The main station is also alive to spreading the Gospel, only in a different way. Most of these are too much occupied to go themselves so they give the money and do the sending. The rent of the street



Jungtseh Hsien Native Helpers.

chapel in a market town to the east, half the rent for the chapel at the out-station to the south, and half the salary of a colporteur is paid from the Sunday collections and the tithes of some of the Christians. This is doing very well indeed, when one knows the extreme poverty of most of the people. Their sacrifice and offerings are surely pleasing to God and He is using them to spread His Word.

The two Sunday schools, one at the main station and the other at the western out-station, are schools in a very decided way. They are graded into classes, meeting for opening and closing exercises. At the main station there are seven classes and they pay for their own

lesson leaves from collections taken up in the Sunday school the last Sunday in each month. There is an average attendance of about one hundred and twenty in both these schools together.

The combined board and day school for boys and the day school for girls are marked with an ever-increasing interest. One girl graduate from the lower primary is now teaching the girls' school in the absence of the missionary in charge of schools here. She is very spiritual. There are seventeen girls in the girls' school at present. Some of the boys who have completed the lower primary school here are now going on in the higher primary. There are six in this class. There are over twenty in the lower primary doing second and third grade work. We had no room for beginners so had to refuse all applications. Although the girls' and boys' school are in the same compound they are not co-educational, therefore they take a double force of teachers.

What do we need? We need your money. We need you. We need your prayers. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



Top row: C. F. Appleton, E. P. Ashcraft.
Second row: Miss Chandler, Mrs. Appleton,
Mrs. Ashcraft.
Front row: Miss Peterson, Secretary Mac-
Geary, Miss Wood.

Kaifengfu.

KAIFENGFU is located on the main trunk railway to the coast connecting also with the Peking-Hankow line at its central junction fifty miles to the west. Modern improvements are seen such as semi-foreign shops, a foreign flour mill, electric lights, macadamized streets, rubber-tired rickshas, a few taxicabs, and bicycles. Like other interior cities, the inhabitants are bound by superstitious customs, false religions, idolatry, and sin. Anti-footbinding is not popular and the queue is still common.

At this centre there is city, school, and country work. Though begun



Kaifengfu Native Helpers.

in 1907, our part of the city work is yet undeveloped, little more than street chapel and guest hall work being possible thus far. Thousands of scripture portions have been sold and multitudes of people have heard the Gospel. At last a church building is being erected, the lot having been purchased last fall, and special meetings as well as regular services can be held.

School Work. An evangelists' Bible institute is conducted one or two months each summer giving a regular course of study to pastors and helpers from this and other stations. There are also boarding schools for boys and girls of the Primary grade and intermediate work is needed. Part of the four

acre plot is still reserved for the girls' school which so far has occupied a yard which should be added to the present boys' school lot adjoining. A small part of the money needed has been appropriated and it is hoped the full need will be met. These schools are to supply the helpers for Christianizing the ignorant thousands of the district. Ninety-five per cent of the Chinese are said to be unable to read. Needy students can be helped through these schools in part, or full, on ten or twenty dollars a year. An agreement is signed by which they are to help the mission a proportionate amount of unsalaried service after graduation. This will make it possible to put Christian day schools throughout the district at a minimum of expense.

Country and Out-station. Directly east of the school and city work is the country field. The most attention so far has been given to a triangular section whose longest side, of twenty-two miles, extends north-east to the farther out-station, a general market town that supplies a number of smaller markets in a radius of ten or twelve miles. The other out-station is fifteen miles to the south-east and the same distance

from the general market. At these two points there are rented premises where native pastors and their assistants carry on local Sunday services, some school work and country work. One missionary lady is engaged in the women's work of the field and the missionary in charge of the station spends some Sundays at the out-stations and travels the circuit on foot, by bicycle, train, or on a donkey, as weather and circumstances permit. A number of Christians throughout the villages have received the Gospel at the out-stations and carried the light back to their home villages. We hope soon they will have Sunday services where their neighbors can attend.

At a recent gathering at one of the out-stations, five out of twenty applicants were considered ready for baptism and became members of the church. One who was refused was a blind man seventy years of age. He afterwards gave up his sixty year vegetarian vow, renouncing the great merit it was supposed to bring his ancestors, himself, and his descendants, and owned the blood of Jesus his only hope of salvation.



Top row: Miss Jones, Winnifred and Mrs. Schlosser.

Second row: Dr. A. L. Grinnell, Delbert, and Mrs. Grinnell. Francis and G. D. Schlosser.

Ki Hsien.

KI HSIEN with 15,000 population is in the centre of Ki Hsien district which has over a half million people though but thirty miles wide and forty miles long.

Density of population 3 times that of Berar, India or that of New York State;

13 times that of Natal, Africa, or that of Santo Domingo;

37 times that of Portuguese East Africa (Inhambane District);

1½ times that of Japan, or that of Germany.

Our present force of six Chinese workers would be able to give *but two* messages in a generation to each person in the district.



Some of Ki Hsien's Multitudes.

The attitude of the Chinese towards Christianity here is more receptive than ever.

This past fall and winter we have tried to reach the unevangelized masses in Ki Hsien district in accordance with plans of the Forward Evangelistic Movement in China. Our head evangelist went as delegate to the Personal Workers' Training School, conducted December, 1916, at Kaifeng by Mr. Tewksbury, a well-known Christian worker in China. Upon the evangelist's return to the station he repeated the lectures as best he could for the benefit of Christians and helpers and amplified them by maps of Ki Hsien District, showing the unevangelized territory, etc. It was a great inspiration to all and served to arouse the missionary instinct

of the Christians and special prayer began to go up for the Evangelistic Week proposed to be held at the Chinese New Year season (February). A large court-yard in the city temple was rented for the week of meetings and there hundreds heard the Gospel daily while at the same time open house was kept at the mission compound for the large and ever-changing throngs of visitors. As soon as the crowds began to decrease a systematic touring of the surrounding country was commenced, working out from the city in circles of about three miles distance apart. In this effort not only the hired helpers but also the Christians were enlisted as far as possible. This touring is still going on in ever-increasing distance from the city until all the district shall have been reached when we hope to repeat this work. Some of the results thus far have been large audiences of both men and women every Sunday mostly from the country and a quickening of the spiritual life of the church itself. Will you not pray for the Chinese Christians that they may be the good leaven working until all of China shall be transformed?

Women's work is quite distinct from men's and is divided into work with heathen women and work with Christian women. The former is carried on by visiting in city and country by preaching, and by instructing those who come to the mission, or to the dispensary. On holidays and special occasions the Gospel is given to thousands who have never heard of Jesus. When possible interested women are taught to read. Special meetings for women are held each Sunday in addition to the general church service. At a weekly Christian Endeavor the women talk on topics previously assigned. Each spring a ten days' Bible school is held to assist them in the study of the Scriptures.

Medical Work. Patients are seen at the dispensary every afternoon except Sundays. All kinds of diseases are treated and usually in the worst stage. Minor operations are performed on Saturday mornings but only those that do not need hospital after-treatment are operated upon. Having purchased land outside the city it is hoped the longed-for new hospital will

make it possible to help many that are now turned away.

School. The boys' school has an enrollment of eighteen pupils, the curriculum being that required by the Central China Christian Educational Union.

Among things for special praise to God is a recent gift of one thousand dollars from an outside source. This is exclusively for advance evangelism through native workers.

Please remember in prayer the need of the outpouring of the Spirit on the field, the missionaries, and their helpers, the need of reinforcements, including a trained nurse for the hospital, the need of native leaders and teachers with a love for souls, the need of more equipment, including further buildings for the girls' school at Kaifengfu, and two new church bells, for the churches at Ki Hsien and Kaifeng.

“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few.” “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?”

